

hometown of Cincinnati, I missed the following Roll Call Votes on June 17, 2002: Roll Call Vote Number 230, a vote on the Journal. Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea." On Roll Call No. 231, passage of H. Con. Res. 415, recognizing National Homeownership Month, I would have voted "Yea." On Roll Call No. 232, passage of H. Con. Res. 340, supporting the goals and ideals of Meningitis Awareness Month, I would have voted "Yea."

PROPOSING A TAX LIMITATION AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 96, the Tax Limitation Amendment of 2002. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

H.J. Res. 96 amends the U.S. Constitution to require that any bill, resolution, or legislative measure that proposes to change Internal Revenue laws must have the approval of two-thirds of those voting in the House of Representatives and the Senate. This requirement would not apply when a declaration of war is in effect, or when the United States is engaged in a military conflict which causes an imminent and serious threat to national security as found by both Chambers and the President.

Mr. Speaker, in his famous *McCulloch v. Maryland* opinion, Chief Justice John Marshall stated that "The power to tax is the power to destroy." This amendment sets out to make it more difficult for the Congress to arbitrarily raise taxes, and presumably, make the Federal Government more efficient and less bloated with unnecessary spending.

History has shown that it is far easier for Congress to raise taxes to cover spending deficits than it is to reduce that spending to reasonable levels. This is all the more true today. Neither party wants to be held responsible for any future return to peacetime deficit spending. Should such an event appear likely to occur, the temptation to raise taxes to cover any potential deficit would be overwhelming.

The enactment and ratification of this amendment would prevent a return to the situation which existed in our Nation 25 years ago. During the 1970s middle-class families were struggling to get by under crippling high marginal tax rates, which, thanks to high inflation and bracket creep, reached deeper into the working class ranks with every passing year.

This amendment forces those who want to raise taxes, for whatever reason, to do their homework beforehand, and convince two-thirds of their colleagues in Congress of the need to do so. For this reason, it is a fiscally prudent idea, and one that merits being sent to the States for ratification.

RECOGNITION OF BONITA AND KEVIN SCHAEFFER

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2002

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bonita and Kevin Schaeffer for their truly remarkable commitment to providing care to individuals with severe mental retardation, physical disabilities, and disease. On July 29th, 2002 Mr. and Mrs. Schaeffer will be celebrating 20 years with Family Care Services, Inc. located in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. During this time they have provided complete care to numerous individuals and continue to do so today. They currently care for five individuals that require assistance with almost all aspects of daily living.

The story of the Schaeffers starts 20 years ago, before there were regulations to govern this type of care. They were the first family in the nation to obtain a C-1 license from the Department of Health for a private home. This license is the same one nursing homes are required to obtain. They continue to provide this high level of care with very little assistance from other direct care staff. This translates into long hours and limited time to themselves. However, Mr. and Mrs. Schaeffer have chosen this arrangement happily and without complaint demonstrating a level of commitment worthy of thanks and praise.

The Schaeffers are an excellent example of people who have chosen to live a life of service to others. They have opened their home and put the needs of others before their own for 20 years. Through personal sacrifice they are giving gifts of hope, strength, and love to those they care for. Although these gifts cannot cure the ailments of the body, they are a powerful medicine for the heart. I encourage others to follow the example the Schaeffers are setting by giving of themselves and helping others in any way they can. President George W. Bush, in his last State of the Union Address, challenged all of us to give two years or 4,000 hours of service over our lifetimes. I believe this is an important personal goal that we should all strive to reach. Mr. and Mrs. Schaeffer have certainly accomplished this goal, yet they continue to inspire us all by continuing to go above and beyond the expected.

I would like to again extend my congratulations to Bonita and Kevin for their 20th anniversary of service and extend my thanks for the contribution they are making to their community. I wish them all the very best in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2002

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 17, 2002, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall numbers 230, 231, and 232. The votes I missed include rollcall vote 230 on Approving the Journal; rollcall vote 231 on Suspending the Rules and Agreeing to H. Con. Res. 415, Recognizing National Homeownership Month and the importance of home-

ownership in the United States; and rollcall vote 232 on Suspending the Rules and Agreeing to H. Con. Res. 340, Supporting the goals and ideals of Meningitis Awareness Month.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 230, 231, and 232.

A TRIBUTE TO FIFTY YEARS OF TOGETHERNESS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, often in this House we discuss the most important and contentious issues of the day, but it is only on that rare occasion that we have the chance to recognize positive achievements. Today, is just such an occasion, it is a tremendous privilege for me to honor Mr. Joseph R. Lewis and Mrs. Avis J. Lewis who have done something that is all too rare in this day and age—they have been happily married for fifty years.

On Saturday, June 8, 2002, this happy couple celebrated their golden wedding anniversary together. Fifty years sharing the joy and sorrow that come with every day life. Together, Joseph and Avis are the proud parents of seven remarkable children. On June 22, 2002, their children as well as their 20 grandchildren, and one great grandchild will be gathering in Port St. Lucie, Florida to celebrate this momentous occasion in the manner that this family has grown quite used to, together.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Joseph R. and Mrs. Avis J. Lewis have reached a milestone that only a lucky few will ever know. They will be celebrating with their family this Saturday. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable couple and their family on this wonderful and happy occasion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes yesterday, June 17, 2002 so that I could attend an event with families of victims of the September 11th attacks and Special Master Kenneth Feinberg. I would have voted as follows: roll call vote 230, "Yea"; roll call vote 231, "Yea"; and roll call vote 232, "Yea."

IN RECOGNITION OF FRANKLYN M. GIMBEL

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2002

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to Franklyn M. Gimbel, who this week will receive the 2002 Community Service Human Relations Award from the Milwaukee Chapter of the American Jewish Committee (AJC). This prestigious award is bestowed each year upon an individual who has